

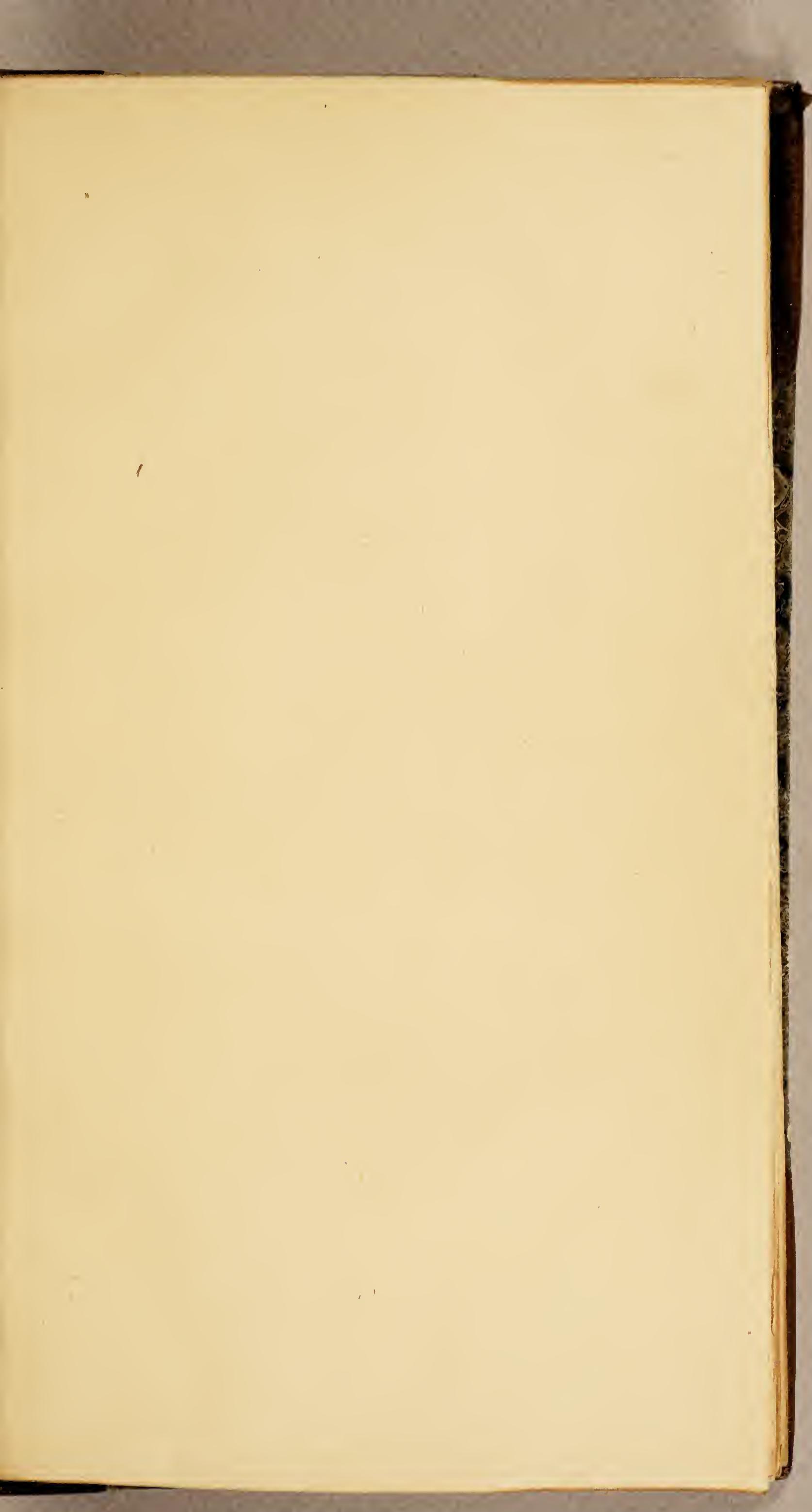




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An IMPARTIAL
ENQUIRY
INTO THE
Right of the FRENCH King

TO
The Territory West of the Great River
MISSISSIPPI, in NORTH AMERICA,
not ceded by the PRELIMINARIES,

INCLUDING
A Summary Account of that RIVER, and
the COUNTRY adjacent;

WITH
A short Detail of the Advantages it possesses, it's
Native Commodities, and how far they might
be improved to the Advantage of the BRITISH
Commerce.

C O M P R E H E N D I N G
A Vindication of the ENGLISH Claim to that
Whole Continent, from AUTHENTIC RECORDS,
and indisputable Historical Facts;

A N D
Particular Directions to NAVIGATORS for entering
the several Mouths of that important RIVER.

L O N D O N,
Printed for W. NICOLL, at the Paper-Mill, in
St. Paul's Church Yard.
[Price One Shilling.]

PRICE

AN IMPARTIAL
ENQUIRY, &c.

WHEN the Clamour of Faction, and the Voices of Prejudice and Partiality are loud in the Nation, it may possibly be deemed in some Degree meritorious to be dispassionate in the Enquiries I shall make. My ultimate End is the Service of my Country, and in a particular and interesting Affair to vindicate its Honour, and defend its Rights and Properties against the Assertions, Claims, and Pretensions of the *French*.

I find by the sixth Preliminary Article of Peace, published by Authority, which now lays before me, "That the River *Mississippi* is to be the Boundary of his Majesty's *American Dominions*, fixed by a Line drawn from its Source as far as the River *Iberville*, and from thence along

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the Middle of that River, and of the Lakes *Maurepas* and *Pontchartain* to the Sea; and that the Most Christian King cedes in full Right, and guarantees to his *Britannick Majesty*, the River and Port of *Mobile*, and every thing he possesses and ought to have possessed on the left Side (the East) of the River *Mississippi*; except the Town of *New Orleans*, and the Island on which it is situated."

In this Case, it cannot be unacceptable to the Publick, to be made acquainted with what Part of that Tract of Land, named, by the French, *Louisiane*, is ceded, and what retained by them, to be informed of the Nature of the Commodities it now possesses or is capable of affording; to know the Advantages of the Great River, to the Navigation of which we have now an undoubted and acknowledg'd Right, and above all, to be convinced from authentic Records and uncontrov'rted Facts, that *Great Britain* has not only a Right to what is ceded to her by the above-mentioned Articles, but to all the Province of *Louisiana*, which lies to the West of the great River *Mississippi*.

To

To prove this will be no very difficult Matter.

In the Year 1497, *Sebastian Cabot*, having King *Henry the Seventh's* Commission, and being equipped at his Expence, discovered all the Coast of *America* fronting the great *Atlantic Ocean*, from the Degrees of 56 to 28 of North Latitude. This was more than twenty Years before any other *Europeans* visited that Continent. We have for this not only the Testimony of our own Historians, but the most eminent among the *Spanish*, viz. *Peter Martyr*, in his *Decades*; *Oviedo*, formerly Governor of *Hispaniola*, *Herrera*, and *Gomera*; also *Ramusio*, Secretary to the Republick of *Venice*, whose Works were printed in 1550, and his Contemporary, *Paulus Jovius*.

Above twenty Years after the Southern Part of this Continent, adjacent to the Gulph of *Bahama*, and that afterwards called the Gulph of *Mexico*, was visited by *Juan Ponce de Leon*, a *Spaniard*; and ten Years after *Vasquez Ayllon* landed there with a greater Force; and in the Year 1527 *Pamphilo Narvaez*, with a

still greater; and next, *Ferdinando Soto*, in the Year 1539; but they were all successively expelled by the Natives for their Cruelty. The last Expedition of the Spaniards to that Part of *Florida* which borders on the Gulph of *Mexico*, was in the Year 1558, by the Order of Don *Luys de Velasco*, then Viceroy of *Mexico*; but falling into great Feuds they made no Settlement.

In the Beginning of the Reign of *Charles the First* all that Part of the Continent of *North America* which lay between *Virginia* and *Mexico* was unsettled, and in the Possession of the Natives only: The *English*, as being the first Discoverers, had a better Right to it than any *European* Nation could claim; consequently King *Charles*, in the fifth Year of his Reign, granted unto Sir *Robert Heath*, his Attorney General, a Patent of all that Part of *America* from the River *St. Mattheo*, on the Peninsula of *Florida*, in 30 Degrees North Latitude, to the River *Passo Magno*, in 36 Degrees, comprehending within its Boundaries the greatest Part of the present Pro-

Province of *Carolina*: In Longitude this Grant extended from the *Atlantic Ocean* to the *South Sea*.

In the 13th Year of King *Charles the First*, Sir *Robert Heath* conveyed the Premises to the Lord *Maltravers*, afterwards Earl of *Arundel* and Earl Marshal of *England*, who planted and settled several Parts of this Country, to which the King, in his Charter aforesaid, had given the Name of *Carolana*. In all Probability a Colony would at that Time have been effectually established, had not the War with *Scotland* broke out, and soon after the Civil War; and had not my Lord *Arundel's* Son proved a Lunatick. In the Beginning of the Protectorate of *Oliver Cromwell*, Captain *Watts* (afterwards knighted by *Charles the Second*, and made Governor of St. *Christopher's*) falling accidentally on the Coast of *Florida*, met with one *Leet*, an *Englishman*, who had been some Years before shipwrecked, and the only Man saved; he was in great Favour with the *Paracoussi*, or Chief of the Country; by his Influence the *English* were permitted to trade and

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and invited to settle ; and not long afterwards the *Indian King* sent one of his chief Subjects to *England*, gave the *English* divers Tracts of Land, and permitted them to survey the Country for above two hundred Miles square.

In the Year 1678 many Persons went from *New England* on Discovery, and proceeded as far as *New Mexico*, 150 Leagues beyond the River *Mississippi*, and gave an Account of their Expedition to the Government. Soon after a War breaking out between the *English* and the *Indians*, many of the latter retreated to *Canada*, from whom Mons. *de Salle* received most of his Information concerning the Country, since called *Louisianne*, which he more fully discovered ; they served him for Guides and Interpreters. This is attested by Mons. *le Tonty*, who accompanied Mons. *de Salle* ; and by Mons. *le Clerc* *, in a Book published by Order of the *French King*.

* There cannot well be a greater Instance of *French* Policy than the endeavouring to suppress this Book ; which having in it divers Passages which inadvertently favoured the Pretensions of the *English*, was called in ; and though sold at first for one Livre, was not, soon after, to be purchased for thirty.—This is their Manner of founding their Rights.

Colonel

Colonel *Wood*, of *Virginia*, who lived at the Falls of *James* River, above a hundred Miles West of *Chesapeake* Bay, betwixt the Years 1654 and 1664, discovered several Branches of the *Ohio* and *Mississippi*. In these Expeditions one Mr. *Needham* was employed by the said Colonel, and he kept regular Journals, afterwards of great Use. This is sufficient to set aside the Claim made by the *French* before the War to the Countries about the *Ohio* and the Great Lakes, to which we have always had a sole and undoubted Right; but, indeed, if their Claims had been in any Sort allowed, we should have been confined to very narrow Limits; for in *De l'Isle's* Map, in the Part where they fix *Carolina*, they have inserted this memorable Passage: *Caroline ainsi nommez en l'honneur de Charles ix. par les François qui la decouvrirent, en prirent possession, & l'establirent l'an 15.* . . . It was become necessary for them to be possessed of a Part of the Sea Coast, and this they thought the most proper for them to claim, as being at that Time an Infant Colony, consequently an easier Prey.

It

It is worth while, in this Place, to note the Limits set to our Colonies by Mons. *de l'Isle*, Cosmogropher to *Louis XIV.* in his Map of *America*. He begins his Line at *Charles-Town*, in *Carolina*, and crossing *Santee River*, carries it up to its Source in the *Apalachean Mountains*; thence he runs it along the Ridge of the Mountains till he brings it to the Back of *Maryland*; when crossing the Province of *Pennsylvania*, and the River *Sasquehanou*, not many Leagues from *Chesapeake Bay*, he carries it up the River to the Forks, and from thence almost in a strait Line to Lake *Champlain*: By this Means near half the Settlements of our Northern Provinces were claimed by the *French*.

We have now, thank God, a much larger Extent of Territory: By the River *Mississippi* being made the Boundary, we shall be possessed of all the great Lakes and Rivers to the East between the *Mississippi* and the *Atlantic Ocean*. Perhaps there is not in the World a finer Country than the southern Part of this immense Tract of Land; and to the North, by means

Means of the Lakes and Rivers now well known, there is as great a Convenience and Opportunity for an extensive Inland Navigation, as the most Commercial Nation can desire.

I shall now take upon me to give some Description of the *Mississippi*, into which almost all the Rivers on this great Continent flow.

The *French* have long pretended to have been the first Discoverers of this River; but this is far from being true. Dr. Cox, who claimed the Province of *Carolana*, as Assignee, under the Charter granted to Sir *Robert Heath*, in the Year 1699, presented a Memorial to King *William* on the Subject; by this it appears, that the Doctor was, as long ago as the Year 1676, possessed of a Journal from the Mouth of the River *Mississippi*, in the Gulph of *Mexico*, to the *Yellow River*, which Journal seemed to have been written many Years before. To it was annexed a very large Map, or Chart, of the River, and the Names of the Nations that inhabited its Banks; and more modern Discoveries, *English*, as well as *French*,

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have confirmed since, in the most material Instances, the Authenticity of the said Journal and Map. It was a Confidence in these Journals, that encouraged the *English* to attempt farther Discoveries, in which attempts, Dr. Cox*, for his Share, spent above nine Thousand Pounds.

The Extent of the Province of *Carolana* has already been mentioned, it is bounded

* The Representation of the Board of Trade, in favour of Dr. Cox's Pretensions, may not, perhaps, be deemed incurious ; it is as follows :

" To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

" May it please your Majesty,

" In obedience to your Majesty's Commands, signified to us by the Right Hon. Mr. Secretary *Vernon*, upon the Petition of Dr. Cox, in relation to the Province of *Carolana*, alias *Carolana Florida*, we have considered his said Petition, and humbly crave leave to represent unto your Majesty, That your Majesty's Attorney-General, upon the Perusal of Letters Patents, and Conveyances, produced to him by Dr. Cox, has reported to us his Opinion, that Dr. Cox has a good Title in Law to the said Province of *Carolana*, extending from 31 to 36 Degrees of North Latitude inclusive on the Continent of *America*, and to several adjacent Islands.

Signed, STAMFORD.

LEXINGTON.

P. MEADOWS.

WILLIAM BLATHWAIT.

JOHN POLLEXFEN.

ABRAHAM HILL.

GEORGE STEPNEY."

The Attorney-General at that Time was Sir *Thomas Trevor*, afterwards Lord *Trevor*, a Man of acknowledged great Abilities ; it must therefore, in consequence of his Opinion, be supposed, that we had at least *then* a Right to all the Country now comprehended by the *French*, under the name of *Louisiana*.

ON

on the East by *Carolina*, which was granted by Charters in the Reign of *Charles the Second*, thirty Years after the Grant to Sir *Robert Heath* above-mentioned, great Part of which it comprehends within its Bounds.

The great River *Mississippi*, or *Meschacebe* *, naturally first claims my Attention ; it has a Course almost directly North and South from its first Fountains, in about fifty Degrees North Latitude, to its emptying itself into the Middle of the Gulph of *Mexico* ; on the West Side of this great River, many others, that take their Rise from the Mountains, near the great South Sea, run into it ; and on the East Side next the *British Colonies* and the *Atlantic Ocean*, almost as many increase its Stream, insomuch that the Coun-

* *Meschacebe* is the proper Name of this River ; it is so called by the Inhabitants of the North ; *Cebe* being the Name for a River even as far as *Hudson's Bay*, and *Mescha* signifying great. The *French*, who learnt it from the *Indians*, corruptly call it *Mississippi* ; it retains the Name of *Meschacebe* among the Natives during half it's Course, afterwards some call it *Chucagua*, others, *Sassagoula*, and *Malahanchia* ; it was, doubtless, named the Great River, as being the largest in all the *North American* Continent, and receiving into it's Channel such a Number of other Rivers of no small note and consequence. I shall call it *Mississippi*, as being the Name it is most generally known by.

try may be almost entirely visited by navigable Rivers, and, what is very remarkable, without Falls or Cataracts, which are so common in the *North American* Rivers, especially those towards *Canada*. It is needless to mention the Convenience of these Rivers for Inland Trade and Navigation, for Trade with the *Spaniards* in *New Mexico*, and the whole Gulph of *Mexico*, which must be greatly to the Advantage of the Nation, yet without any Prejudice to our Home Plantation Trade.

The River *Mississippi* empties itself into the Gulph of *Mexico* by seven Channels, all navigable, the three largest by Ships, the four smaller, two on each Side, by Boats and Sloops, especially when the Freshes come down.

The three Branches navigable by Shipping, are about six Miles distant from each other, uniting all at one Place, about twelve Miles from their Mouths. There is not above fourteen Feet on the Bar at Low Water in Neap Tides, excepting when the Freshes come down in the Spring, or after great Rains; but when you are over the Bar, which is not,

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in many Places, above a Ship's Length broad, you enter immediately into deep Water, the least five Fathom, which increases to ten Fathom before you come to the main River; after that it deepens gradually to above thirty, and you have no where less than twenty Fathom for a hundred Miles, and very little less for a hundred Leagues, and afterwards from ten to seventeen for a hundred Leagues more; from six to ten two hundred Leagues farther; thence to the great Fall, which is sixteen hundred Miles from the River's Mouth, from three to six Fathom. The Banks in most Places are not more than five or six Feet above the River, and Ships may lay by the Side of the Shore, there being generally from three to six Fathom, deepening gradually towards the Middle, where there is, for the most part, a strong Current, but good Anchorage, at the same Time, under the Promontories, sheltered from the Winds.

The Banks of this River, at the Distance of four or five Leagues from the Sea, are beautifully ornamented with high Trees; very little Underwood is there to

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incommode the Traveller, except the Vines, which every where abound, sometimes crawling on the Ground, at others climbing to the Tops of the most lofty Trees.

In these Woods are plenty of wild Kine, Venison, and all Kinds of Game, Fruits in Abundance, and a Soil capable of producing all the Necessaries and Delights of Life. The Meadows, which are most beautiful and fertile, are proper for immediate Cultivation ; and the gentle Ascents, crowned with Tufts of Trees, make the whole an enchanting Prospect.

I shall now proceed to mention the Rivers that discharge themselves into the *Mississippi*, of which there is none of any Consequence till you have ascended rather more than two hundred Miles from the Sea, when on the Eastern Side you meet with the *Iberville*, mentioned in the sixth Article of the Preliminaries as a Boundary. After a Course of a hundred and sixty Miles, crossing the Lakes *Maurepas* and *Pontchetrain*, it empties itself into the North East End of the great Bay of *Spirito Santo*; it is not above forty or fifty Yards

Yards broad, and two or three Fathom deep at its Beginning, but soon enlarges and makes a fine River; it is navigable by the greatest Boats, Sloops, and small Ships, English built, and large ones, Dutch built, with flat Bottoms. About fifty Miles above the *Iberville*, on the West Side, is the *Houmas*; this is a very large River, deep and broad, and comes from the Mountains of *New Mexico*; its Course is, for the most part, North-West, navigable above three hundred Miles up by large Vessels, and almost to its Source by Boats. Twelve Leagues higher is the River of *Natches* on the same Side: About fifteen or sixteen Leagues from its Mouth, beyond a fine Island which it forms, is a great Fishery for Pearls, which prove large and good: Twelve or fourteen Leagues higher, on the same West Side, the *Mississippi* makes a little Gulph about twenty Miles long and three or four broad; this also abounds with Pearls. Fourteen or fifteen Leagues higher on the East Side is the River of *Yasoue*, which comes near a hundred Leagues out of the Country. Ten or twelye Leagues farther on, is

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the *Natchitock* on the West Side, which has a Course of many hundred Miles, and after it has ascended about a hundred, there are many Springs, Pits, and Lakes, which afford most excellent common Salt in great Plenty. Sixteen Leagues higher, on the same Side, two Rivers enter the *Mississippi*, which unite about ten Leagues above, and make an Island called *Torimans*, from the *Indian* Inhabitants. Southerly of these two Rivers, is that of *Oufoutiwy*; the River to the North is called *Niska*. Ten Leagues further up is the small River called *Cappa*; and ten Miles higher, on the same Side, another called *Matchicebe*. Ten Leagues higher, on the East Side, is the *Chongue*; and fifteen Leagues from thence, on the West Side, the *Sypouria*. Thirty Leagues higher on the East Side, is the opening of a River which proceeds out of a Lake twenty Miles long, which is about ten Miles from the *Mississippi*; into this Lake four large Rivers discharge themselves, which add greatly to the Value of the Country ceded to *Great Britain* by the Preliminaries. The most northerly, which comes from the North East, is the

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Ouabachicon, or *Ouabache*. The next South of this is the great and important River *Ohio**, which has been the Seat of the late *American* Campaigns, and coming from the back of *New-York*, *Maryland*, and *Virginia*, is navigable six hundred Miles. South of the *Ohio* is another River, which about thirty Leagues above the Lake is divided into two Branches; that to the North called *Ouespere*, the other the *Black River*. This River rises from the West Side of the Mountains, at the Back of *Carolina*, *Virginia*, and *Maryland*. The most southerly of the four Rivers that discharge themselves into the Lake, is the *Kasqui*, or the River of the *Cheraquees*; it comes from the South East, rising among the Mountains on the Borders of *Carolina*, and has long been the great Road of the *Indian* Traders

* *Ohio*, in the *Indian* Language, signifies *Fair River*, and, indeed, it may very properly be so called, running through one of the most fertile and beautiful Countries in the World, and being formed by the Conflux of ten or twelve Rivers, and innumerable Rivulets. A Town settled upon this Lake, at the Entrance of the *Ohio*, would have a Communication with a delightful Country 600 Miles square, and be most advantageously situated to form the Mart and Centre of all the inland Trade of the Continent; perhaps something of the Kind may be done when the Peace is concluded.

from thence to the *Mississippi*. Fifteen Leagues above the *Ohio*, on the West Side of the *Mississippi*, is the *Honabanoue*, and about ten Leagues above that, is the great Island *Tamaroas*; fifteen Leagues above which, to the West, is the great *Yellow River*: About sixty or seventy Miles from its Mouth, it is divided into two Branches, both descending from the Mountains of *New Mexico*; one, called *Ozages*, proceeds from the South, the other from the North West. This last, which is called after the *Massorites*, is said by the *Indians* to have, by means of several Lakes, a Communication with the great South Sea. Forty Miles above the *Yellow River*, on the East Side, is the *Checagon*, or *Alinouecks*, called by the *French Illinois*: This is a very fine River, and about two hundred and fifty Miles from its Mouth, it is divided into two Branches; the lesser derives its Source from North and by East, and its Head is within four or five Miles of the great Lake *Illinois* on its West Side: The other comes directly from the East, and proceeds from a Morass within two Miles of the River *Miamiba*, which

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discharges itself into the same Lake. Forty Leagues higher up the *Mississippi*, on the West Side, is the River *Moingone*; and on the East, about as much farther, is the *Misconsiag*. About the same Distance from the last mentioned River, on the West, is the *Mitchaoywa*, or the *Long River*. A little higher up is the *Chabadeba*, above which the *Mississippi* forms a fine Lake, twenty Miles long, and eight or ten broad. Ten Miles above the Lake on the East, is the large River of *Tortoises*, which leads to the North East, and is navigable by the greatest Boats forty Miles; about the same Distance higher up there is a Fall, after which the *Mississippi* is navigable eighty or ninety Miles farther to another Fall, and beyond that to its Sources not far from *Hudson's Bay*.

When the Number of Rivers that fall into the *Mississippi* is considered, the great Importance of it must be sufficiently obvious. On the East Side, which comprehends the Tract ceded by the Preliminaries to *Great Britain*, it has by its Branches a Communication with all our Colonies, which must of Course, when

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the inland Parts of the Country come to be settled, be of great Advantage to them. On the West Side, where the Branches are still more numerous, this great River is said to have a Communication with the Mountains of *Mexico*, from whence many large Streams have their Source, which discharge themselves into the great *South Sea*.

The *French*, by retaining all the Continent to the West of the *Mississippi*, have the Advantage of us, for they have in that Quarter much greater Opportunities of carrying on an extensive *Indian Trade* than we can on the opposite Side. On the Back of our Colonies the *Indian Nations* are almost extirpated, by the frequent and bloody Wars they have, for many Years past, carried on one against the other: Many potent and numerous Tribes, that formerly inhabited the Eastern Branches of the *Mississippi*, are now either quite destroyed by the *Indians* of the Five Nations, or driven from their Settlements; and forced to fly to the Western Side. Even about the Lakes and to the North-

Northward the *Indians* are by far less numerous than they were in our Fathers' Times ; so that it is much to be feared that the Fur Trade, from which we seem to form such mighty Hopes, will prove by far less valuable than we expect, as all the *Indians* that live to the North-West of the *Mississippi*, will still, probably, continue to trade with the *French* only ; for were they inclined to cross the *Mississippi* to deal with us, they will, by the *French*, be easily prevented, by only building a few Stoccado Forts at the Mouths of the Rivers.

The *French* King, by the sixth Preliminary Article above quoted, cedes to *Great Britain* all the Country to which he has any Claim on the East of *Mississippi*, except the *Isle de Nassau*, or *New Orleans* ; of which Notice will be hereafter taken. The Country so ceded he also guarantees to us ; but I do not find that we guarantee to him what he chuses to reserve, I mean the Country to the West of the River ; our Claim to it, as Part of the Province of *Carolina*, is still good, by
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the Charter* granted to Sir *Robert Heath*.
This Province is described to extend from

* As some of my Readers may be curious to see this Charter, I have given them the following Extracts from it :

“ Charles by the Grace of God, &c. to all to whom these Presents shall come, greeting.

“ WHEREAS our trusty and well-beloved Subject and Servant, Sir *Robert Heath*, Knight, our Attorney General, being excited with a laudable Zeal for the propagating the *Christian* Faith, the Enlargement of our Empire and Dominions, and the Increase of Trade and Commerce of our Kingdom, has humbly besought Leave of us, by his own Industry and Charge, to transport an ample Colony of our Subjects, &c. unto a certain Country, hereafter described, in the Parts of *America*, between the Degrees of 31 and 36 of Northern Latitude inclusively, not yet cultivated or planted, &c.

“ Know ye therefore, that we, favouring the pious and laudable Purpose of our said Attorney, of our special Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, have given, granted, and confirmed, and by this our present Charter, do give, grant, and confirm, unto the said Sir *Robert Heath*, Knight, his Heirs and Assigns, for ever, all that River, or Rivulet, of *St. Mattheo*, on the South Part, and all that River, or Rivulet, of *Passo Magno*, on the North Part, and all Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, lying, being, and extending between, or within the said two Rivers, by the Tract there, unto the Ocean on the Eastern and Western Parts, so far forth, and as much as the Continent there extends itself, with every of their Appurtenances. And also all those Islands of *Veanis* and *Rahama*, and all other Islands and Islets near thereto, and lying Southward of and from the said Continent, all which lie within 31 and 36 Degrees of Northern Latitude inclusively. And all, and singular Havens of Ships, Roads, and Creeks of the Sea, to the said Rivers, Islands, and Lands belonging; and all Grounds, Lands, Woods, Lakes, and Rivers within the Regions, Islands, and Limits aforesaid, situate, or being; with all Kinds of Fishes whatsoever, Whales, Sturgeons, and other Royal Fish and Fishings in the Sea and Rivers: And all Veins, Mines, Pits, as well open as shut,

the River St. Mattheo on the South Part
to the River of *Passo Magno* on the North.

St.

shut, of Gold, Silver, Gems, precious Stones, and other Stones, Metals, or Things whatsoever, within the said Region, Territory, Islands, or Limits aforesaid, found, or to be found. And all Patronages, and Advowsons of all Churches, which, by encrease of Christian Religion, shall hereafter happen to be built within the said Region, Territory, Island, and Limits aforesaid ; with all and singular, and with as ample Rights, Jurisdictions, Privileges, Prerogatives, Royalties, Liberties, Immunities, Royal Rights, and Franchises whatsoever, as well by Sea as Land, within the said Region, Territory, Islands, and Limits aforesaid : To have, use, exercise, and enjoy, in as ample Manner as any Bishop of *Durham*, in our Kingdom of *England*, ever heretofore hath held, used, or enjoyed, or of Right ought, or could have, use, or enjoy.

" And him the said Sir *Robert Heath*, his Heirs and Assigns, we do by these Presents, for us, our Heirs and Successors, make, create, and constitute the true and absolute Lords and Proprietors of the said Region, and Territory aforesaid, and of all other the Premisses, saving always the Faith and Allegiance due to us, our Heirs, and Successors. And that the Country, or Territory, thus by us granted and described, may be dignified by us with as large Titles and Privileges as any other of our Dominions and Territories in that Region.

" Know ye, that we of our further Grace, certain Knowlege, and mere Motion, have thought fit to erect the same Tract of Ground, Country, and Island, into a Province, and, out of the Fullness of our Royal Power and Prerogative, we do, for us, our Heirs, and Successors, erect and incorporate the same into a Province, and do name it *Carolana*, or the Province of *Carolana*, and the said Islands, the *Carolana* Islands, and so from henceforth will have them called, &c.

In Witness, &c.

" Witness the King at *Westminster*, the 30th Day of October, in the 5th Year of our Reign."

Note, This is not the whole of the Charter, many other Privileges, &c. being granted by it as on Inspection by the curious Reader will appear.

St. Mattheo has been found to be in thirty Degrees Northern Latitude, and *Passo Magno* in thirty-six; and from East to West this Province was to extend from the *Atlantic Ocean* to the great *South Sea*, and of Course includes all *Louishanne*; for as to the Country to the West of the *Mississipi*, that lies farther North than thirty-six Degrees; it is to be included in the Dependencies of *Canada*, and to be esteemed a Part of it, and of Course becomes a Portion of the *British Dominions* by the Cession which is made of *Canada*, with *all its Dependencies*, by the twenty-second Article of the published Preliminaries. And indeed it is with me a Matter of Doubt whether the *French King* does not by that Article cede to us *Louishanne*; for this last has always been esteemed a Dependency of *Canada*, its Governor being subordinate to the Governor of *Canada*, and subject to his Controul: But be this as it may, it cannot, I think, be doubted, but that we have a Right to *Louishanne* as a Part of our old Province of *Carolana*, being comprehended within the Limits described in *Charles the First's Charter*,

Charter, of which I have already given my Readers an Extract in a Note. This Charter was granted long before any *European* had settled within the Limits described by it. The first that made any Attempt towards settling a *French* Colony in that Part of the *American* Continent was Mons. *de la Salle*. About the Year 1679, this Gentleman having had, from certain *Indians* who retired towards *Canada*, when their first Wars broke out with the *English*, a very pleasing Account of the Country bordering to the East and West on the *Mississippi*, and with Reason imagining, that as the Climate was milder than *Canada*, it would better agree with a *French* Constitution, and produce more valuable Commodities for the Increase of the *French* Trade ; he undertook an Expedition thither over the Continent, and proceeding as far as the Lake *Illinois*, where, on the River *Miamibas*, he artfully gained the Permission of the *Indians* to build a Fort, under Pretence of protecting them from the *English* and *Irocois*, or Five Nations, whom he represented as cruel and treacherous. This Fort was

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admirably well situated for Trade, being near the Head of a River that discharges itself into the *Mississippi*, by that Means having an easy Communication with all the Southern Part of the Continent ; and by Means of the Lakes it had as great Advantages to the North. It became afterwards the great Mart or Emporium of *French Indian* Trade, being used as a Magazine or Storehouse for all Sorts of *European* Goods. It commanded the Entrance into the Lake, and kept all the neighbouring Nations in Awe and Subjection. This Fort Monsieur *de la Sale* called *Creve-coeur*, i. e. *Heart-break*, from the Grief with which he was seized for the Loss of one of his chief trading Barks with a rich Cargo, and for the treacherous Intrigues of some of his Company, who first attempted to poison, and afterwards desert him. This Fort continued in high esteem with the *French*, till they discovered a nearer and easier Passage by the *Ouabache* and *Ohio*, the Heads of both which Rivers almost communicate with the Lake *Erie*. This same Monsieur *de la Salle*, in the Year

1685, made a Voyage by Sea, to discover the Mouth of the *Mississippi*, which, being an enterprizing Man, it is said, he purposely overshot, going as far to the West as the Bay of *St. Bernard*, which he called the Bay of *St. Louis*. Here he built a Fort, having formed a Design to visit from thence the Mines of *St. Barbe*, in *New Biscay*, which were not above a hundred Leagues distant, but he was obliged to desist from his Enterprize, for one of his Vessels returned to *France*, and the other three were lost, with almost all his Stores, Ammunition, and Provisions; besides, he found it no easy Matter to engage the *Indians* in his Interest; they proved his bitter Enemies, and destroyed many of his Men; at length, this gallant, enterprizing, and publick spirited Officer, having chosen twenty Men for his Followers, went by Land, in search of the *Mississippi*, and was barbarously and inhumanly murdered by them. The Fort was soon afterwards taken and destroyed by the *Spaniards* and *Indians*, all the remaining *French* therein being either killed or taken Prisoners. The next Attempt was in 1700, near the

Eastern Branch of the *Mississippi*, now called the River *Iberville*, from Monsieur *D'Iberville*, who, in the Beginning of the Year, built a small Sconce near the Bay of *Bilocoby*, and in it left forty Men well provided with Necessaries; he afterwards returned twice to *France* for Reinforcements, but on his third Voyage back to *Bilocoby*, died. The *French* being about this Time engaged in a War, and having lost their active Commander, this, and another small Settlement they then had in the neighbourhood, were deserted for want of a timely Supply of Necessaries. After the *English* had been many Years settled on the Banks of the great River *Couffa* *, to the East of the *Mississippi*, and had carried on a considerable Trade with the *Indians*, being kindly entertained as Friends by them, about the Year 1715, they were, by the Intrigues and Practices of the *French*, either murdered, or obliged to make room for these bold Intruders, who immediately built a Fort there, and formed a Settlement which they named *Fort Louis*, making it the

* This River is now called by the *French*, *Mobille*.

chief Residence of the Governor of
Louisiana.

The best Harbour upon all the Coast of the Gulph of *Mexico*, is *Pensicola*. It is capacious and very safe from all Winds, has four Fathom at the Entrance, and gradually deepens to seven or eight. On the East of the Harbour enters a fine River, which has a Course of a hundred Miles, and is formed of two Streams, which unite at some Miles distance; *Pensicola* is ninety Leagues West from the upper Part of the Peninsula of *Florida*. On the West Side of the Bay there was some Years ago a small *Spanish* Town * and Settlement, with a stocadoed Fort of twelve or fourteen Guns: This the *French* took with small loss, in the Year 1719, from the *Spaniards*, who recovered it again in a few Months, but it was soon afterwards again taken by the *French*, and kept by them. This Harbour, which is about fourteen Leagues East of the River *Mobile*, consequently comprehended

* It is to be supposed the *Spaniards* have given up all Claim to this Country, or we may hereafter have a Dispute with them: They should guarantee the Possession of it to us.

in the Track ceded by the sixth Article of the Preliminaries to *Great Britain*, is of the utmost Consequence ; it commands the Bay of *Mexico*, and gives the Power, in Time of War, to intercept all the *Spanish* Trade of *Panuco*, *La Vera Cruz*, *Campeche*, *Porto Bello*, and the *Havannah*.

It may not be amiss, in this Place, to say something of the Country that lies to the West of the *Mississippi*, which the *French* propose to retain. The first River you meet with of any Consequence going to the Westward, is that of the *Quonoatinnos*, or *Coenis*, so called from an *Indian* Nation ; it is about eighty Leagues West of the *Mississippi*, broad, deep, and navigable, and proceeds from the Hills on the Borders of *New Mexico*. About thirty Leagues to the South-West is the River *Kirononias*, little less than that last mentioned ; its Course is also from the North-West, having its Sources in the Mountains of *Mexico*. Between these two Rivers lies the Bay of *St. Barnard*, where Mons. *de la Salle* built the Fort above-mentioned ; he called a Stream which falls into this Bay the River of *Vaches*.

Vaches. About the same Distance farther South-West is the River *Biscaterongs*, nearly of the same Magnitude, and has the same Course, and its Heads from the same Mountains. The last River of Note is about the same Bigness, and enters the Bay of *Mexico* at the North-West End between the Degrees 27 and 28; it is called *Abotas*.

Between the *Mississippi* on the East Side and the Peninsula of *Florida*, there are only two large Rivers; the first we meet with going to the East is the *Coussa* River, or *Mobile*, the largest in this Quarter next to the *Mississippi* and *Ohio*; it has its Rise on the West Side of the *Apalachean* Mountains. At *Chiaha* on this River is a Pearl Fishery, there being found in that Part a Shell Fish which contains them. On the Banks of this River *Ferdinando Soto* resided some Time in his famous Expedition. All the * Spanish Writers

* The faithful and judicious unknown Portuguese Author of that Expedition, in a few words, thus describes the Country bordering on this River: " It consists of Hills, and Vallies between; their Granaries were full of Indian Corn and other Edibles, so populous that their Towns and Fields, sowed with Corn, touched each other; the Country is very agreeable, by Reason of many Rivulets, which make lovely Meadows. There grow

of this Expedition extol the Country on its Borders, as being pleasant, healthful, and fertile. This great River receives the Streams of a great Number of other smaller Rivers, which take their several Names from the *Indians* that inhabit their Banks, who were formerly very numerous, but now much decreased by frequent Wars ; one whole Nation was in a manner destroyed by *Ferdinando Soto* ; they inhabited a Province called *Tasculuza* ; it enters the Gulph of *Mexico* about fifteen Leagues to the East of the great Bay of *Nassau*, or *Spirito Santo*. The River runs into a kind of Lagune, or Bay, which is barred four Miles from the Mouth of the River ; at Low Water there is not on the Bar above three Fathom of Water in most Places, but increases when you are over it to five or six. The Harbour of *Penscola* is already noticed, so we shall now proceed to the other great River, which grows naturally in the Fields, Prunes, better than we can in *Spain* produce by Culture even in our Gardens. Vines mount, in almost all Places near the Rivers, to the Tops of the Trees. There are divers other Sorts of Vines, which are low, and some run upon the Ground, and, by cultivating, might be wonderfully improved, though very good and pleasant as they are in their natural state."

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ver, which is that of *Palache*, or *Spirito Santo*, which discharges itself into the Bay of *Mexico*, between *Pensicola* and the Peninsula of *Florida*, in thirty Degrees of North Latitude and some Minutes. It is somewhat hard to find, on account of some Isles and Lagunes before it; and though a fine River, and comes far out of the Country, it has not above three Fathoms Water at the Bar, but that being passed is very deep and large; the Country near it being a perfect Level, and the River having a double Current, one from the South and the other from the West. The Tide flows higher up it than any other River along the Coast; some say above fifty Miles.

It is to be observed, that by the Preliminary Articles, the Line of Partition is to be drawn from the Head of the *Mississippi*, along the Middle of the Channel, till we come to the River *Iberville*, the eastern Mouth or Channel of that River, thereby leaving the fertile, pleasant, and large Island of *Nassau*, or *New Orleans*, as well as the fine Bay of *Nassau* or *Spirito Santo*, in the Hands of the French,

together with the capital Town of *New Orleans*. This Island is, indeed, almost the only Part of *LouisiAnne* that is perfectly settled by the *French*, and ought, therefore, as being of Value to us, on that Account to have been included in the Cession they make of the Country East of the *Mississippi*. By retaining that Island they will be continual Spies on our Conduct, and ready to crush our Infant Settlements on the *Mobile*, *Palache*, at *Penscola*, or wherever else it may be thought proper to make them, before they can possibly be well established and able to defend themselves; besides the Opportunities they will, by their Situation, have, to tamper with, and practise on, the Credulity of the *Indian* Inhabitants, and prevent their living on amicable Terms with the *English*. The Bay of *Nassau* is no inconsiderable Object, being so convenient as lying almost contiguous to the Entrance of the *Mississippi*; it is formed by four Islands, which run almost due South, a little inclining to the West; the most northerly between which and the Main is the Entrance of the Bay, being eight

eight Leagues long, was called by the People, sent by Dr. Cox in the Year 1698 on Discovery, *Mirtle Island*. On digging there is Plenty of very good fresh Water. This Island, in some Places, is very narrow. The Bay is five Leagues broad from *Mirtle Island* to a Row of Islands which run parallel with the Main ; the Length of the Bay from North to South is one entire Degree.

Though we are not at present to be possessed of the Isle of *Orleans*, yet the free Navigation of the whole Length of the *Mississippi* is given to us ; it cannot, therefore, be unacceptable to my Readers if I give some few necessary Cautions with respect to entering this great River, at present so little known to the English Navigators in general. Though the Latitude and Longitude of the Mouths of the *Mississippi* were perfectly known, it is almost still impossible to find them in the common Way of sailing ; for if you bear ever so little to the South you meet with a very strong Current that will drive you to the South-West two Miles an Hour till you come to the West End of the

Bay of *Mexico*; to prevent which, you must make the Main of *Florida*, in about thirty Degrees of Latitude. The Land is so very low, you can scarcely see it at four Leagues distance, where there is forty-five or fifty Fathom; but ten Leagues off, there is no Ground at a hundred Fathom. *Pensicola*, already described, is the most convenient Place to fall in withal, for which Purpose it is best to make the *Tortuga Islands*, which are seven in Number, and but a few Leagues to the North West of Cape *Florida*, and the little Islands which lie before it, called *Los Martyres*. The *Tortuga Islands* lie between the Latitude of twenty-four Degrees, and from thirty-five to fifty Minutes, not in a Circle, as represented in the old Charts, but bear almost North and South. In *April*, *May*, and *June* they abound with good Turtle, whence their Name. The Course from the *Tortuga Islands* to *Pensicola*, is North forty-four West, distance a hundred and fifty-eight Leagues, the Shore bold, bearing East and West. Nine Leagues from Land there is thirty-three Fathom Water, but

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if you make the River *Couffas*, which is a hundred and sixty-seven Leagues, and is remarkable for a large opening with a small sandy Isle in the Middle, the Land will stretch East and West, and within eighteen Leagues you will fall in with *Mirtle Island*, which with the Main, makes the Entrance into the great Bay of *Spirito Santo*. This, with five or six other low Isles, runs in a Range fourteen Leagues; and to the South West of them, about five Leagues, are high Woods. Stand over for the South Part of these Woods, till you come to four Fathom, then cast Anchor, and send a Boat to a low Point to the Southward along Shore. In five Feet Water you will find a small Branch of the River, row up to it, the Current will carry you to the Bar, where you may take your Marks for your Entrance into it. It may sometimes happen the Waters are too low to pass this Channel; in this Case run by the Soundings of the Shore in five or six Feet Water, and keep that Depth till you come to the pitch of the *East Cape*, where you will find the easterly Branch, in five or six Feet Water.

Water. Row up, take your Marks, return, fix your Buoys, and you may carry your Ship into the River very safely. The like Caution must be used for entering either of the other Mouths, to keep near the Shore, and by anchoring stop the Tide of Ebb.

By enquiring into the Rights of the *French* to the Country, West of the *Mississippi*, I do not mean to insinuate that our Territory in *North America* is not already sufficiently extensive, especially comprehending the late ceded Provinces ; but as we are all of us sensible what bad Neighbours the *French* are, if we can establish an acknowledged Right and Claim to the whole Northern Continent, our Colonists will be much more secure in their Lives and Properties, and the *Indian* Trade will be by far more considerable than it has ever yet been yet, as the Natives will have only an *English* Market to go to with their Furs : On the contrary, as the Case now stands, if we do not build Forts at the Mouth of almost every River that discharges its Waters into the East Side of the *Mississippi*, it is a great doubt with me, whether all the *Canadian* and Nor-

Northern *Indians* will not still find a Way to the *French* Markets, by means of the Lakes, which afford them an easy Navigation, and the Rivers that are almost contiguous to them, and fall into the *Mississippi*. If this should happen, *Canada* will be of no other Service to us, than as, by being in our Possession, it removes the *French* to a greater Distance from the Back of our Northern Colonies, where they began to grow very troublesome; but at the same Time it increases by Emigration their Numbers in the South, where our Colonists are not so well able to contend with them in their Encroachments.

It has been some Time past the Fashion to depreciate the Value of the Southern Part of the Territory ceded to us by the Preliminaries; I shall, therefore, take this Opportunity to dwell a little on the native Commodities of this Region; but it must be remembered, when I am giving an Account of the Advantages possessed by the ceded Territory, that the Country to the West of the great River still to be retained by the *French* is, in all Respects, equal, and in some superior to it; consequently

quently it is well worth our while to keep up the just Claim we have to it as part of our old Province of *Carolana*.

In the first Place, then, this Country abounds with *Indian Corn*, of which the Natives have always two, and sometimes three Crops in a Year; the Use of this is well known on the Continent. Along the Coasts, and two or three hundred Miles up the Country from the Sea, they have the Root *Mandiboca*, of which the Caffavi or Caffada Cakes and Bread is made, the chief Food of the *Indians* between the Tropicks, and esteemed a good Nourishment. This Country besides affords another Kind of Corn like Oats, but larger, which exceeds our Oatmeal; this grows spontaneously in marshy Places. They have Limes in Plenty, and Prunes growing in the open Fields, which are often dried for Winter Provision; other Fruits they have common to the Latitude in which the Country lies, but I cannot pass over the Grape in Silence. They have Vines of several Kinds growing wild in the Woods, some of which climb the Trees, others run on the Ground, and,

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in all Probability, were they properly cultivated and pruned, they would yield as good Grapes, and consequently as good Wine, as any Part of *Europe* affords. As in *England* our Consumption of this enchanting Liquor is so great, it would be an amazing Saving to the Nation could we be supplied with it from our own Colonies; which, perhaps, may, in Time, be the Case, as we are to be possessed of this fertile Country in which Vines thrive so well. There are Beeves in great Plenty in the Woods, as well as Store of Venison and Game; the Sheep to be found there are of the *Spanish* Breed, their Flesh is as good as ours, and the Wool better for many Uses: Hogs are very numerous, and their Flesh good; Turkies, Bustards, Pheasants, Partridges, Pidgeons, &c. &c. are without Number, as well as all Sorts of Sea Fowl.

I must now take Notice of an Article of much more Importance than any I have hitherto mentioned, I mean Cotton, which grows here wild, and may be managed and improved to as great Advantage as in the *West Indies*. A popular Writer has lately laid a great

Stress on the Quantity of Cotton annually imported from *Guadalupe* since it has been in our Hands, and chiefly from that Article estimated the future Value of the Island ; but as we are now to have a Territory every Way as proper for the Growth of it, and of much larger Extent, why should we lament the Loss of that Island, or why blame the Ministry for restoring it, when we can reap all the Advantages it could have afforded, from that Part of *Louisiannie* which we are to possess ? This may, perhaps, be denied ; but let me assure the Objectors, that Coffee, Tea *, and some Kinds of Spices, will certainly thrive and come to Perfection there ; and it is more than believed that Sugar Canes might be planted to good Advantage. Cochineal is another Commodity of great Value ; this is produced in Plenty enough to supply all our Wants ; the *Tuna*, on

* A few Years ago a *Dutchman*, who had lived many Years in *China*, learned there the Art of drying the several Kinds of Tea ; this Man afterwards settled in *South Carolina*, and having brought with him some Tea Seeds, planted them in his Garden, where they grew, and thrived prodigiously, bearing plenty of Leaves and Flowers ; but before the *Dutchman* had an Opportunity of putting his Knowledge in practice, he died, and the Art dropped with him, but the Tea Plants have been propagated in Gardens there ever since.

which

which it feeds, being common there both on the East and West Sides of the *Mississippi*, for some hundred Miles up the Country from the Gulph of *Mexico*. Cochineal * is a Commodity of such Value, and so evidently useful and necessary in Dying, that too much Attention cannot be had to the Production of Plenty of it in our Colonies.

The next Article to be mentioned is Ambergrease, which is often found on this Coast, from the Cape of *Florida* to

* The Cochineal is an Insect that breeds and feeds on the *Tunal*, or *Tuna*, of which there are divers Sorts, all to be found in the Territory bordering on the *Mississippi*. After a Time these Insects fasten themselves to the Leaves, being covered by a small fine Webb, which, when come to Maturity, they eat through, and fall to the Ground. The Spaniards, in *Mexico*, are very curious in gathering them; they carefully watch the Season, and, spreading Sheets under the Plants, receive the falling Insects, which, being dried, are curiously packed and sent to *Spain*, and from thence distributed to the most civilized Parts of *Asia* and *Europe*. The Cochineal is of two Sorts, one wild, which they call *Silvester*; this, though it bears a good Price, is far from being either so good or so valuable as that which is regularly cultivated in Gardens, in a Manner not much unlike the Method used in growing Tobacco in *Virginia*, &c. *Acosta* tells us, that in the Fleet wherein he returned from *Mexico* to *Spain*, that Province only shipped 5677 Arobes, each 25lb. weight, and valued at 283,750 Pieces of Eight; the Quantities have been since much more considerable, and the Value of it in *Europe* greatly encreased, which occasions Cloth, &c. of a scarlet, &c. Colour to be dearest of any.

Mexico, and is of great Value. Salt, so necessary to human Life and Health, may be made up the Country, from several Salt Springs which are to be met with near some of the Branches of the *Mississippi*, both on the Eastern and Western Sides. Silk is a Commodity of such Use, nay, so very essential to the being of a great Manufacture, that it is needless to enlarge on the Benefits that would accrue from the extensive Production of it in our Southern Colonies. The Territory of which we are now treating, abounds with Forests of Mulberry Trees, the well known Food of the Silk Worm. The Climate is very favourable to the Health of the Insect, and certainly, with proper Encouragement, a considerable Quantity of Silk might be produced here by the Labour of the Women and Children of even an Infant Colony; so much Treasure is annually carried out of the Nation for Raw Silk *, that it is

* The Silk we import from *China*, *Bengal*, and other Parts of the *East Indies*, *Persia*, *Turkey*, *Naples*, &c. serves for distinct Uses; in all probability the *Mississippi* Country would produce every distinct Kind in the different inland Parts. It would possibly succeed better than in *Georgia*, as at a Distance from the Sea the Air is more salubrious for the Worms, being less damp, and not so much subject to Fogs. The *Chinese* sow Mulberry

become an Object well worth the publick Attention. *South Carolina** has produced it, and *Georgia* has now great Encouragement for that Purpose. On the Coast of the Bay of *Mexico*, on both Sides the *Mississippi*, especially after high South Winds, is found a Sort of Stone Pitch, called by the Spaniards *Copec*: This, when made more liquid by a Mixture of Grease, is esteemed in hot Countries, preferable to Pitch, for paying Ships Bottoms, not being so apt to melt by the Heat. Hemp and Flax may be cultivated here to any extent, the Plants that produce them growing naturally wild. Timber abounds,

berry Trees in Beds as we do Pot-herbs, and mow those of one Year's Growth, which are very tender, for the young Worms; the second Year's Growth they feed them with when they are somewhat larger, and when strong they supply them with Leaves from the Trees; this Method secures them from Diseases, to which they are so subject if fed with tough Leaves when young; it also saves Trouble, and thereby lessens the Number of Hands necessary to attend them.

* Sir Nathanael Johnson many Years ago made a Trial of raising Silk Worms in *South Carolina*, and met with all the Success he could in Reason wish for; but there being at that Time no public Encouragement given, he was under a Necessity of dropping his public-spirited Undertaking, on account of the Dearth of Labour, there being at that Time so very few Hands to be hired under a very exorbitant Price. In *Georgia* they have of late had better Success, owing to the public Filatures, and to the Support they have had.

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as Oak, Fir, Cedar, Spruce, Pine, and divers others; of course Tar, Pitch, and Resin cannot be long wanting; and as the Country is in some Parts very woody, Potash might be made here as well as in the other Colonies.

By the sixteenth Preliminary Article,
“The Subjects of *Great Britain* have
“Liberty granted them of cutting and
“carrying away Logwood from the Bay of
“*Honduras*;” this is in general looked up-
on as a great Point gained; but it would
certainly be much more eligible to have
this useful Wood from our own Dominions.
The *Mississippi* Country affords it, as well
as many other dying Woods, as Fustick,
&c. It is therefore to be hoped, that when
a Colony is established in our new South-
ern Acquisition, this Trade will be no
longer precarious, and at the mercy of the
Spaniards, at the Commencement of every
War. Many Roots are used by the *In-
dians* in these Parts, which may be found
very useful to Dyers. Besides the Advan-
tages already mentioned, there are Mines
of Lead, Copper, Cinnabar, Iron, and
Coals, which, when worked, would be
very

very profitable to the Undertakers.

These are Commodities which this Country produces ; it may not in the next Place be improper to enumerate a few that, in all human Probability, would thrive there. Olives * might certainly be planted here to great Advantage, and the Sums of Money we annually send to *Spain* and *Italy* for the Fruit and Oil, might be saved to the Nation. Almond Trees would also thrive, and supply the Consumption of *Great Britain*, with the Fruit and Oil, which would be some saving. We annually import vast Quantities of Currants † from *Spain* and the *Levant*,

* *Acosta*, in enumerating the Productions of the *West Indies*, particularly mentions Olives and Almonds as thriving so well in *Mexico*, as to exceed those of *Spain* and *Italy*, but, for very obvious political Reasons, both they and the Vines are forbidden to be used for the Production of Oil or Wine.

† Olives, Almonds, and Currants were thought sufficiently necessary Commodities, that King *Charles the Second*, with the Advice of his Council, gave great Encouragement, in his Patent for *Carolina*, to the Proprietors, Planters, or any others, who should produce and import them to *England*; as also Capers, and some other Commodities therein mentioned. Indeed we of this Century are too little attentive to the Degree of Encouragement that it is proper and necessary to give to our Colonies, in the Production of particular Commodities ; was this Point attended to, we should not so frequently hear Complaints made, that the Trade of *North America* interferes with that of the Mother Country ; but if they are not tempted by Rewards, and a good Market, to employ

the Islands of *Zant* and *Cephalonia*; and it cannot but be remembered how scarce and dear they are grown since the Commencement of the *Spanish War*. That they would grow in the ceded Territory is more than probable, the Climate and Latitude being much the same with the Islands above-mentioned. It is not at all improbable, for many Reasons, but that Salt-petre might be made here, as well as in the *East Indies*; and this is, indeed, well worth enquiring into, as it would make us much more certain of a regular Supply of Gunpowder than we have ever yet been; it has been attempted in *England*, but not with the wished-for Success.

Should I venture to say that this Country might be made to produce some of the dearer Kind of Spices, it might, perhaps, seem ideal, yet why it should not is no Way obvious to my Comprehension. Most of the fine Fruits we have in *England* are of foreign Original, but have been, at various Times, transplanted into employ their Time in raising Commodities that may answer their Purpose of maintaining their Families, without being detrimental to *England*, they must of course attend to what affords them the most ready Profit abstracted from any other Consideration.

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this Island, and by proper Culture, as it were, naturalized to the Climate; how much more easy, then, must it be to bring the Trees which bear the Spices to thrive in a Climate which is nearly, if not in an equal Degree possessed of all the Advantages that in which they originally and spontaneously grew can boast. The *Dutch*, perhaps, would not chuse we should pay any Attention to this Point, but the Advantage it would be of to *England* is sufficiently obvious.

Were I to give my Pen the Liberty, I could enumerate many other useful Commodities which this Country either naturally produces, or which might, with due Culture, be brought to thrive in it; Commodities which ought to be encouraged in all our Colonies; I have in particular omitted Rice, lest it might seem to interfere with the Trade of *Carolina*; yet as that Province cannot supply a sufficient Quantity for our Home Consumption, but we are still obliged to import much, I see no Reason why the Growth of it should not be encouraged in the Colony to be planted in the ceded Territory.

Many Tracts of Land near the Banks of the numerous Rivers are well adapted to the Purpose ; and if the Quantity raised was thereby in any considerable Degree increased, it would not only employ more Shipping, and of course a greater Number of Seamen, but might be a probable Means of reducing the Price of it, and make it of course be much more generally eat by the poorer Kind of People, who would be glad of an innocently-increased Variety of Food.

The Articles I have already mentioned are common to the Country on both Sides of the *Mississippi*; but the Western Territory, which is still to be retained by the *French*, can, it is said, boast of other Advantages, I mean Gold and Silver Mines in the Mountains to the West, which separate this Country from *New Mexico*. It would not, perhaps, be for our Interest, as a Nation, to be possessed of them; at least if, as in *Spain*, they should enervate us with Luxury, and stifle that Spirit of Enterprize and Industry for which the *English* Nation has been long famed.

It is, perhaps, Time to return to our original Subject, and say a few Words more relative to the Right the *French* have to the fine Territory to the West of the *Mississippi*. Take this Matter in any Light whatever, we have certainly a better, as well as a prior Right to the Country in Question, not only as first Discoverers of it, but as first Settlers and Occupiers.

We do not find that the *French* had any Footing in what they call *Louisianne*, till Mons. *de la Salle* made an Expedition thither about the Year 1685, not so much with an Intention of forming a Settlement, as to surprize the *Spanish* Mines of *St. Barbe*. Mons. *Iberville* was the next, who about the Year 1700 formed a small Settlement, which was afterwards abandoned, near the Bay of *Bilocozy*, and it was near fifteen Years from that Time before it bore any Semblance of a *French* Colony; then, indeed, the *English* were by Violence driven from their Settlements and Houses; and from that Time it has been entirely, though unjustly, possessed by the *French*. The City of *New Orleans*

leans has risen to a sudden Degree of Eminence, and that whole Quarter of the *American* Continent has by the *French* been distinguished by the Name of *La Louisianne*.

If we examine into the Right of the *English* to this fruitful Track, we shall find it much better founded, if we allow the first Discovery, Grant, Possession, and other most material Circumstances, to have their due Weight. *Sebastian Cabot* was in the *English* Service and Pay, when he made the Discovery. King *Charles the First* granted a Patent of the particular Track the *French* affect to call *Louisianne*, to Sir *Robert Heath*; this Patent was duly assigned over to Lord *Maltravers*, afterwards Earl of *Arundel*, who took actual Possession of the Country, and planted several Parts of it, and this so early as before the breaking out of the Civil Wars.

In the Year 1678, some *New England* Men went on Discovery *, and proceeded the whole Length of the Southern

* It is to be noted, the Planters, who had before this Time made Settlements in this Country, had, for the most Part, gone over Land from the East Coast, settled by the *English*, the Mouths of the *Mississippi* being not yet known.

Coast of the Continent as far as *Mexico*; at their return rendering an Account of their Proceedings to the Government of *Boston*. Colonel *Wood* had, several Years before, discovered the Branches of the great River *Ohio* and the *Mississippi*; and soon afterwards Dr. *Cox*, who became by divers mean Assignments entitled to the Province, under the original Charter, made by his Agents several very important Discoveries, many of his People passing the whole Continent from *Pensilvania*, by the *Susquehanah* River, to *New Mexico*, discovering thereby Territories altogether unknown to the *French*. But what is most material, and best ascertains our Right to the Province in Question is, that the same Dr. *Cox*, in the Year 1698, fitted out two Ships, provided with twenty great Guns, sixteen Pateraroes, with small Arms, Ammunition, Stores, and Provisions of all Sorts, not only for the Use of those on board, and for making Discoveries by Sea, but also for building a Fortification, and settling a Colony, there being in these Vessels, besides the Complement of Men, above thirty *English* and

French.

French Volunteers, all Gentlemen. One of these Ships discovered the Mouths of the great and famous River *Mississippi*, entered and ascended it above a hundred Miles, and had perfected a Settlement in it, had not the Captain of the other Ship failed to perform his Duty and Engagements by deserting his Comrades ; and such was the publick Spirit of Dr. Cox, that had it been done, there would never after have been any Danger of the French Nation's getting what they have since done, on that Part of the Continent. As it was, however, they took Possession of the Country in the Name of King *William*, and left in several Places the Arms of *England* affixed on Boards and Trees, as a lasting Memorial of it. But what is most to our Purpose is, that this was the first Ship that ever entered that River from the Sea, or that perfectly discovered and described its several Mouths, (tho' the French, without any Appearance of Truth, assume to themselves the Honour of both) and King *William* was so well pleased, that when a Memorial was presented to him on the Occasion, calling a general Council

Council to consider of it, he, and above twenty of the Council who were present, unanimously agreed that the Design of settling the said Province, ought to be speedily encouraged and promoted, often afterwards declaring, *That he would leap over twenty stumbling Blocks rather than not effect it :* And he also frequently assured the Proprietor, that the Design should not only receive publick Encouragement, but that he would, at his own Cost, send over six or eight hundred French Refugees and *Vaudois* to join the English who should settle there. Many Men of great Distinction made Offers to the same Purpose, particularly the Lord *Lonsdale*, then Lord Privy Seal, generously offered to assist the Design with two thousand Pounds in ready Money, or a Ship of two hundred Tons, with a hundred Settlers of whatever Trade or Occupation the Proprietor should choose, amply provided with necessary Tools, Instruments, and Provisions, for the Space of one Year ; but the sudden Death of that noble Lord, and soon after of King *William*, put a Period at that Time to this

great

great Undertaking. Our Right nevertheless to this Territory was still indisputable, tho' thro' our Delays and Want of publick Spirit, the *French* after this taking the Advantage, settled a Colony there, and called the Country *Louisiannē*.

That *Great Britain* should be possessed of the whole *North American* Continent, seems to be a favourite, and, indeed, necessary Maxim of modern Policy; it could not, therefore, be improper to give the Publick, at this Juncture, a slight Sketch of our Right to the only Part of it that we shall not soon be possessed of; when a Claim lies long dormant, it is apt to be forgot: This Tract, therefore, though otherwise perhaps of small Moment, will serve to remind my Countrymen, that there may still be, some Time or other, a proper Crisis to assert our Rights and ancient Claims on the *French* Nation. We have, it must be owned, lost several very proper Opportunities of doing it. There seems to be a Kind of Fatality in our Dealings with them; tho' a War may be carried on for several Years with an almost uninterrupted Career of glorious

glorious Successes, the Issue of it seldom yields us the expected Advantages either in Trade or Dominion. The Cession of the Territory at the Back of our *American* Colonies is a Point of Importance gained, yet is not our Dominion there as compleat as it should be; we shall still be liable to have our Back Settlers exposed to *French* and *Indian* Incursions and Depredations.

The enterprizing Spirits that made no Difficulty, by crossing the Lakes, to traverse a Country above two hundred Leagues before they entered on their Expeditions, will find it easy, now they are to be removed nearer to us, to change occasionally the Western for the Eastern Bank of the *Mississippi*, and thereby as effectually encroach on our Territory, and disturb our Settlers, as they did in the Beginning of the War, *and some Years before*, when their chief Settlement and greatest Force was on the inhospitable Banks of the frozen *St. Lawrence*, where they had every Disadvantage of Climate to contend with, and were under a Necessity of timing their hostile Excursions

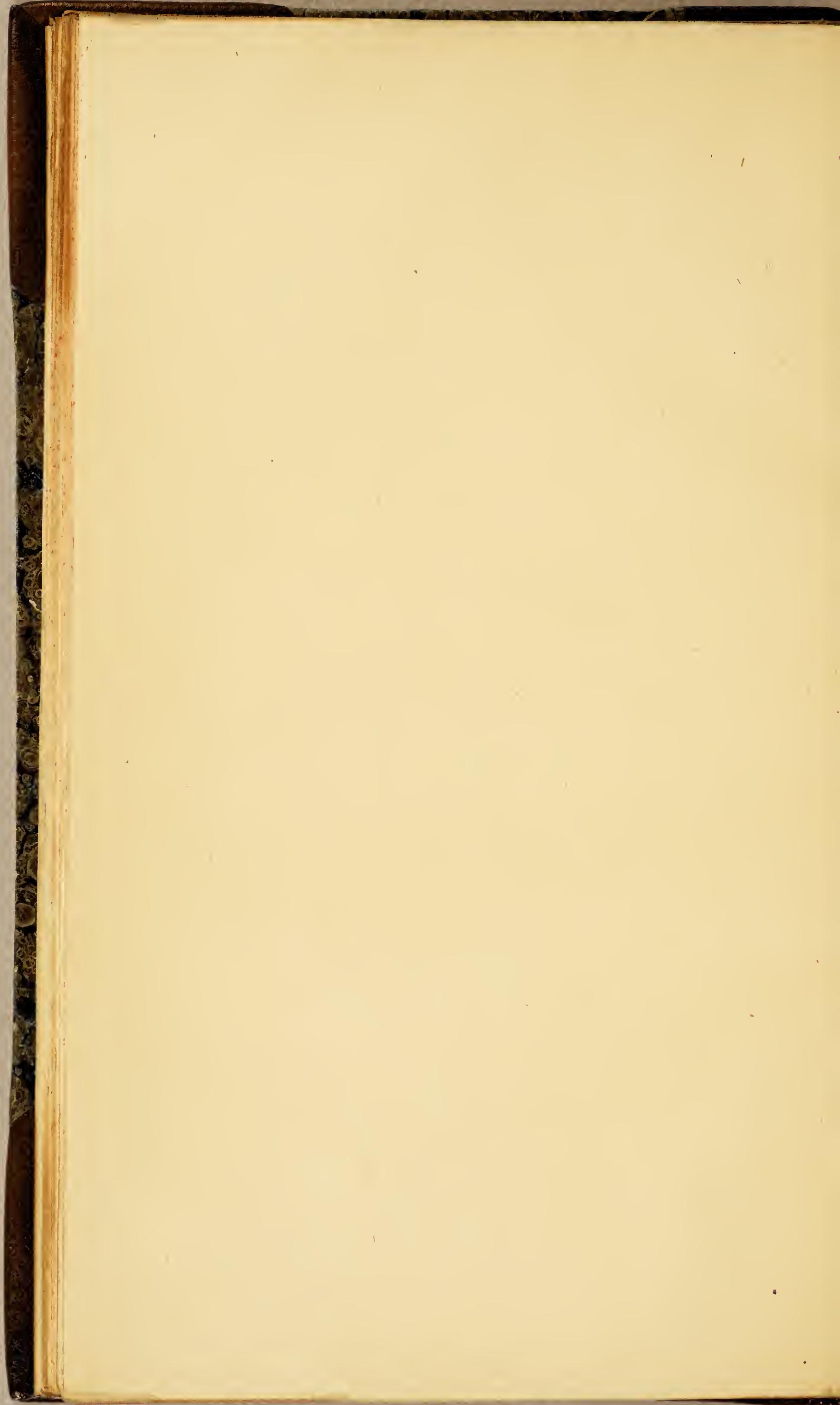
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to particular Seasons ; they will now, in their *Louianne*, be at hand to molest us ; the Settlement in the Island of *Orleans*, which is not to be ceded, will give the French a continual Opportunity of watching our Motions, or spiriting the Indians against us ; so that in effect, by leaving to them the Territory to the West of the River, and thereby leaving our American Empire incompleat, we may possibly, in the Space of a few Years, have that Work to do over again which has already cost us so many Millions to perform.

I have only, before I conclude, to add, that I owe many of the Facts communicated in this short Tract to some authentic Materials collected by Dr. Cox, so often mentioned, and his Son, Daniel Cox, Esq. This Piece of Justice I thought due to the Memory of two worthy and publick-spirited Men.

F. I. N. I. S.



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